

Dec. 10, 1861

Tuesday Morning 19

With deep emotion for the continuance of your valuable life, I congratulate you my dear husband, on having attained your fifty sixth birthday, and for the tolerable degree of health you are at present enjoying.

What cause there is of rejoicing when we reflect that our hearts are as close by united, and our interest in each other's welfare remain's unabated. How comforting is the reflection, that our loved ones we still spare to us, the best of sons, and dearest of daughters, whose only desire is to render us happy. "Surely goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives"

Your cheerful spirit under all circumstances, your willingness at all times to contribute

is our happiness, have ever been
uppermost in your thoughts.
Self denying you have always been,
the most faultless of husbands
and fathers, leaving no one cause
to complain that they have not
equally shared your affection.
As a family we have the most
unbounded love, and respect,
for you. The only regret I have,
that in the performance of my
duty as a wife I have come far
short of what I ardently desired
and wished. If my life is spared
may I not in some measure atone
by endeavoring to become more
deserving your love.

Myself and children wish
you to accept of a suit of clothes,
which we consider a privilege
to give to you. It is only the
outward acknowledgment that we
feel that you require. You have
that within which we cannot
add

hereto a spirit in which is
no guile. Hoping my dear
husband that you will live
to see very many birthdays,
I remain
Your loving wife.

Helen Eliza Garrison

to W. L. Garrison

